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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 04ANKARA5952, MASOUD BARZANI IN ANKARA: NOT IN A MOOD TO

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

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Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#04ANKARA5952**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
04ANKARA5952	2004-10-20 09:22	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Ankara

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.taraf.com.tr/haber/karayilan-icin-bilgi-verin.htm>
<http://www.taraf.com.tr/haber/affa-uyamazsa-pkk-yi-vururuz.htm>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

200922Z Oct 04

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 005952

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/18/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PINR](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: MASOUD BARZANI IN ANKARA: NOT IN A MOOD TO
COMPROMISE ON KIRKUK

Classified By: DCM Robert S. Deutsch for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary: KDP leader Masoud Barzani paid his first visit to Ankara in two years Oct. 11-12, during which he met with PM Erdogan and FonMin Gul. According to the Turkish MFA, Barzani was unexpectedly assertive, especially on Kirkuk, which he stated was a Kurdish city, period. Barzani characterized the PKK as the KDP's enemy, and told the Turks that the second border gate issue was for the Turks and the IIG to determine. End summary.

2. (C) MFA Director General for the Middle East Tahsin Burcuoglu told the DCM Oct. 13 that the Turks were surprised at KDP leader Masoud Barzani's "assertiveness" during his Oct. 11-12 visit to Ankara, his first in two years. Barzani met PM Erdogan, FonMin Gul, and had a working lunch with senior MFA, military, and intelligence officials. He recited generally familiar themes on other key issues, namely the PKK and the second border crossing. Barzani told the Turks that the PKK is the KDP's enemy as well, not just the Turks'. He added that the issue of where to place the second border crossing was one for the IIG and the GOT to solve.

3. (C) MFA, the local KDP rep, and the Turkish press all agreed that Kirkuk was the main bone of contention during Barzani's visit. The tone for had been thus set in late September, when the Turkish press quoted Barzani as saying that the Kurds are ready to fight for Kirkuk if the city is not included in Kurdistan. In Turkey, Burcuoglu told the DCM, Barzani stated firmly that Kirkuk is a Kurdish city and that he will not accept any abrogation of the Kurds' right of return. Barzani told the Turks that the Arabs in Kirkuk will be resettled elsewhere, and then there would be a referendum

where Kirkuk's residents could (read: will) decide that Kirkuk will be a "part of Kurdistan." The KDP's local representative, Omar Merani, told PolMilOff that Barzani was so annoyed at the working lunch by persistent Turkish questioning on Kirkuk that he refused to discuss the subject further in that venue (though he did discuss the issue extensively in his bilats). Burcuoglu noted that Barzani was noticeably less confrontational in his meeting with PM Erdogan; Burcuoglu said with a laugh that Erdogan's aggressive body language influenced Barzani's deportment.

14. (C) Barzani told the Turks that he did not seek ethnic conflict, and that his harsh words were not directed at Turkey but at elements in Iraq who would resist the idea of a Kurdish Kirkuk. If the new central government in Baghdad is like Saddam, Barzani asserted, the Kurds will fight. The local PUK representative, Bahros Galali, told us that we should read Barzani's public remarks through the prism of Kurdish politics: The PUK, he claimed, is stronger in Kirkuk than the KDP, so Barzani was making a play for Kurdish nationalist votes by claiming Kirkuk for the Kurds.

15. (C) Comment: While the Turks claim to be concerned about the Turkmen minority there, their real concern, we believe, is that Kurdish nationalists will seek to use control of Kirkuk and its natural resources as a basis for a viable Kurdish state. Although we argue with the Turks that we and the IIG are working for an orderly process of returns to Kirkuk as laid out in the TAL, the ardent stand Barzani asserts undermines our arguments as well as Turkish/KDP relations. His visit did nothing to improve the situation.

16. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.
EDELMAN